

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 26

Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment

Before the Senate Finance Committee

By Melanie Townsend Diggs

February 2, 2023

Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 26.

I am currently the South Area Director for the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, and I have served on the Board of Families USA, a national consumer health care advocacy group. I fully support this legislation which would reduce barriers for Marylanders to get the health care services they need. I personally was enrolled in Medicaid during a difficult time for my family, and I appreciated the people who helped me get connected and enrolled because I did not know that I was eligible.

As a librarian, I have also assisted people who had trouble navigating the health care system. We in Maryland need to do everything that we can to make the system as simple as possible, so everyone is able to access the coverage for which they are already eligible.

This bill would help break down barriers to access because Marylanders who have already gone through the process of enrolling in SNAP will be automatically enrolled into Medicaid, and by doing so, reducing the unnecessary paperwork for SNAP recipients to remain enrolled in Medicaid. This bill would also help Marylanders get connected with utility services and help seniors enroll in SNAP, making this bill like a one-stop-shop for beneficial services to a community in need.

Thank you very much for your consideration and I urge a favorable report for SB 26.